

Discovery Program 2006
Phase A Concept Study
Kickoff Meeting Agenda

November 20, 2006
Discovery II Room
Holiday Inn Capitol Hill

Questions and Answers.

Questions following presentation by Lindley Johnson:

Q1: Could you tell us your role or title?

A1: Overall Program Executive for Discovery

Q2: Can you clarify what you mean by “shadowing?”

A2: The Program Office has no official role through Phase A but we want to give them insight into the missions. They are just ‘shadowing’ the program to get insight into who/what they will be working with down the road.

Q3: Can the Program Office be a resource for information?

A3: No. There are specific Points of Contact (POCs) for services such as DSN, launch services, etc. Eventually they will be your POCs once you are selected for Phase B. The official POC is Michael New.

Additional information following formal presentation by Cindy Daniels:

The TMC grades for Phase A will include 9 grades and not the 3 from the initial evaluations (low, medium, high).

In the Step One TMC evaluations, minor strengths and weaknesses were not considered. In Step Two they will be.

Questions following presentation by Barry Geldzahler:

Q4: What do we have to do to get any DSN technologies information?

A4: Contact Andy Kwok or myself.

Q5: This is not offered as GFE, correct?

A5: Yes, that is correct.

Questions following presentation by Norman Beck:

Q6: Where does the cost increase of pad sustainability get noted?

A6: As a footnote since it is NASA’s problem not yours.

Q7: Sometimes the cost increases and then decreases with the launch vehicle. Do we report this?

A7: With regard to LV costs, we are not going to hold you to more than the original cost proposed in your Step One proposal (with same LV). If you proposed a Delta II vehicle in step one, we aren't going to give you a Delta IV in step 2 for the cost of Delta II. But we won't hold you for more than the proposed cost of the step 2 launch vehicle as defined in the launch services document in the DPL.

Q8: In Step 2 launch vehicle details, NASA's information does not provide configuration. Will you work with us?

A8: Yes, but since this is a competitive procurement you may not get a launch service. Your document is used to go out to bidder; you can come down and have input. Based on your interface request document we go out to bid.

Q9: Can we propose a specific integration?

A9: Yes, you can propose a specific design, but be careful. This is a competitive process. You may not get the proposed rocket. We have to go for the best value to the government, so remain flexible.

There is a policy in the AO regarding this. See quote from section 5.11.2 of the Discovery AO below.

“Accordingly, proposers should plan to be compatible with either vehicle family through spacecraft PDR. It is recommended that the payload design envelop launch environments for both launch vehicle families. If a proposal team identifies compelling reason(s) not to maintain dual compatibility, then the proposal team may choose a single launch service class for proposal purposes and accept the risk that compatibility with alternate systems may be required as a result of launch service acquisition process.”

Questions following presentation by Larry Cooper:

Q10: What does STEM mean?

A10: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

Comment on slides:

There is no Appendix B in the study guide.

Q11: Regarding the ¼ to ½%--are we allowed to propose a higher amount of participation?

A11: Yes, as long as you stay within the cost cap.

Q12: This is drastically reduced from other AOs?

A12: Yes, that is correct.

Questions following presentation by Paul Gilbert:

Q13: Regarding slide 12, can you define PLRA and CADRE?

A13: PLRA is Program Level Requirement Agreement.

CADRE—
CADRe stands for Cost Analysis Data Requirement.

Q14. Is the CADRe something the proposer needs to do?

A14. No, NASA HQ will construct the CADRe. See section 5.9.4 of the Discovery AO for further information on CADRe.